

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SSM-03 /109 W

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R 101300Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9111

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PINT, EG

SUBJECT: THE ASU AND THE ECONOMY

REF: CAIRO 12403 1975

1. EFFORTS BY ARAB SOCIALIST UNION (ASU) TO PLAY A
LARGER ROLE - READ ANY AT ALL - IN EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 1976, REPORTED REFTEL, HAVE HAD MIXED
SUCCESS.

2. ASU ITSELF WAS QUITE ENTHUSIASTIC OVER OPPORTUNITY TO
HAVE LOOK AT PLAN PRIOR TO ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND
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EXTENSIVE NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF DEBATES/DISCUSSIONS

IN LATE DECEMBER HAVE MADE SUPPORTERS OF LARGER ROLE EVEN HAPPIER. MEETINGS OF ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE WERE ATTENDED BY A NUMBER OF MINISTERS, WHO ANSWERED SERIES OF QUESTIONS OF BOTH GENERAL AND SPECIFIC NATURE CONCERNING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PLAN. PRESS STRESSED IN PARTICULAR COMMITTEE'S CONCERN FOR BASIC ASPECTS OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMY IN TERMS OF PROBLEMS FACING PEOPLE, STEPS THAT WERE PLANNED TO OVERCOME THEM, AND IN PARTICULAR MECHANISM BY WHICH GOALS WERE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED (ASU UNDER SEC FOR ECONOMICS IBRAHIM TOLD EMBOFF THAT THIS WAS MOST SERIOUS FLAW SEEN IN PLAN, I.E. GOALS ARE IDENTIFIED BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION OF HOW THEY ARE TO BE ATTAINED. EMBASSY NOTICES THIS IN 75 PLAN AS WELL.

3. IN ANY EVENT ASU PREPARED REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO GOE. THIS ACTION WAS REPORTEDLY ACCOMPLISHED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO END OF YEAR, AND CORRESPONDED MORE OR LESS WITH CONCLUSION OF DEBATE IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND APPROVAL BY THAT BODY OF DRAFT PLAN WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS.

4. COMMENT: DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU STAND, ASU EFFORT WAS EITHER MILD SUCCESS OR RELATIVE WASTE OF TIME. ONE MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE TOLD EMBOFF THAT SINCE IT IS HIGHEST POLITICAL INSTITUTION IN EGYPT, COMMITTEE'S VIEWS ON PLAN AS TRANSMITTED TO GOE WOULD NATURALLY RESULT IN APPROPRIATE CHANGES BEING MADE, ALTHOUGH SOURCE OF CHANGES WOULD NOT BE KNOWN TO CASUAL OBSERVERS. OPPOSING VIEW WAS EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR BY MINTRADE ABDEL FATTAH WHO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS INDEED HIGHEST POLITICAL ORGAN IN EGYPT WITHOUT, HE ADDED, ANY AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER.

5. GIVEN METHODOLOGY BY WHICH EGYPTIAN PLANS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN DEVELOPED (SIMPLE ARITHMETIC TABULATION OF MINISTERS' WISH LISTS), THERE WAS PROBABLY LITTLE THAT ASU COULD DO TO SALVAGE 1976 EFFORT. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE SINCE PARTY IS STILL IN DISARRAY AND DISREPUTE FOLLOWING ABORTIVE EFFORT AT ORGANIZING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLITICAL FORA. NONETHELESS, IF EGYPT IS EVER TO HAVE CHANCE FOR SUCCESS AT ORGANIZING ITS ECONOMIC EFFORTS, ASU COULD MAKE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION, BUT PROBABLY NOT FOR AWHILE.

EILTS

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